

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 117139 TOSEC 010067

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOL REPEAT CAIRO 5011 SENT ACTION SECSTATE MAY 20, 1975

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 5011

NODIS/CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FAHMY

1. MET WITH FAHMY LAST EVENING AT HIS APARTMENT TO ASCERTAIN IF, AS A RESULT OF SADAT'S JUST CONCLUDED TRIP TO FOUR ARAB STATES, ANYTHING NEW HAD EMERGED WHICH ALTERED THE EGYPTIAN POSITION AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. FAHMY WAS FEELING HIS OATS, BUT STILL VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE UPCOMING SALZBURG SUMMIT.

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2. SADAT'S TRIP, IN FAHMY'S VIEW, WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISITS TO IRAQ AND JORDAN HAD BEEN HISTORIC FIRSTS. EVERYWHERE SADAT WENT, INCLUDING IRAQ AND JORDAN, HE WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED. HE HAD MADE CLEAR TO ALL OF THE ARAB LEADERS THAT EGYPT IS THE VANGUARD OF THE ARAB CAUSE AND THAT HIS PURSUIT OF THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WAS IN NO WAY A SELLOUT OF ARAB INTERESTS. IN DAMASCUS, SADAT HAD SPOKEN SHARPLY FOR A SECOND TIME TO ASAD THAT EGYPT'S NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH US WERE AND ARE INTENDED TO SERVE THE OVERALL ARAB CAUSE AND THAT CHARGES TO THE CONTRARY ARE SLANDEROUS. SADAT RECEIVED A MANDATE, FAHMY CLAIMS, TO SPEAK AT SALZBURG FOR MOST OF THE ARABS AND TO DO WHAT HE THINKS BEST. EVEN ASAD AND THE IRAQIS HAD AGREED THAT IF EGYPT CAN GET AN INTERIM AGREEMENT, IT SHOULD DO SO. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SOMETHING COULD THEREAFTER BE GOTTEN FOR SYRIA AND ULTIMATELY THE PALESTINIANS, BUT THIS WAS NO CONDITION FOR PROCEEDING TOWARD A NEW SINAI DISENGAGEMENT.

3. SO FAR AS THE PALESTINIANS ARE CONCERNED, BOTH SADAT AND HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO ARAFAT THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST THEMSELVES RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND DECIDE ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. EGYPT'S POSITION WAS CLEAR. IT HAD GIVEN THE US AND THE USSR A FORMULA ON PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION, BUT IT WAS UP TO THE PALESTINIANS TO DECIDE IF THEY WISH TO DO SO. OTHER ARAB STATES CANNOT BE PROHIBITED FROM NEGOTIATING, INSIDE OR OUTSIDE GENEVA, BY PALESTINIAN INABILITY TO AGREE.

4. ADVERTIN TO THE SALZBURG SUMMIT, FAHMY SAID THE EGYPTIAN POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED. SADAT IS GOING TO SALZBURG TO HEAR WHAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS TO SAY. HE, FAHMY, DOUBTS THAT USG HAS CAPABILITY AT THIS TIME TO CALL FOR COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. BUT AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT, IF THAT IS THE BEST WE CAN DO, SHOULD COME OR AT LEAST BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE GENEVA. IF US OPTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, WHICH WOULD BE POLITICAL MASTERSTROKE IN ME AREA, THIS, TOO, SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE GENEVA. GENEVA IS HARDLY A PROMISING FORUM TO NEGOTIATE ANYTHING. FAHMY SAID HE HOPES PRESIDENT FORD WILL BE ABLE TO INFORM

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SADAT OF WHAT USG INTENDS TO DO SO THAT WE CAN CONCERT ON A COMMON STRATEGY. IF AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT IS DECIDED UPON, HE THINKS IT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THREE, FOUR OR FIVE WEEKS -- THE SOONER THE BETTER -- AFTER THE SUMMIT. UNLESS THERE IS QUICK ACTION, THE SERIES OF ARAB, ISLAMIC AND OAU MEETINGS WHICH BEGIN IN LATE JUNE IS LIKELY TO MAKE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT. IF SADAT LEAVES SALZBURG WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT USG INTENDS TO DO, HE, FAHMY, WILL CALL

FOR GENEVA TO CONVENE IN JUNE. EGYPT CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO WAIT INDEFINITELY WHILE USG TRIES TO MAKE UP ITS MIND.

5. FAHMY STILL PROFESSES WORRY ABOUT WHAT WILL COME OUT OF SALZBURG. IF NOTHING CONCRETE COMES OUT OF IT, HE WARNED, THE WHOLE EXERCISE WILL BE VIEWED IN EGYPT AND THE ARAB WORLD AS AMERICAN DECEPTION. LACK OF CONCRETE RESULTS, HE REITERATED, WILL HURT SADAT AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE. HE KEPT PRESSING FOR SOME INDICATION OF WHAT WE HOPE TO PRESENT AT SALZBURG, AND I KEPT TELLING HIM I DID NOT KNOW. HOWEVER, WE WERE DETERMINED TO MAKE THE MEETING A SUCCESS, AND I HOPED THE EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE WOULD ALSO BE CONSTRUCTIVE IN HELPING US LOOK FOR A WAY TO PEACE. FAHMY OPINED THAT THE ONE THING WHICH WILL COME OUT OF SALZBURG IS SOME ECONOMIC AID AND EVEN THIS PROBABLY NOT UNTIL NEXT FISCAL YEAR. (I SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD FROM POATES AND MATTHEWS THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STATE PUBLICLY ANY FIGURES. IF TRUE, THIS WILL CAST A FURTHER PALL OVER WHAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE INCREASINGLY BEGINNING TO THINK WILL BE AN INCONCLUSIVE, HENCE, AS EGYPTIANS SEE IT, USELESS MEETING.)

6. I REMINDED FAHMY SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR TWO PRESIDENTS TO GET TOGETHER, EXCHANGE VIEWS AND DEVELOP A COMMON STRATEGY IS OF ITSELF OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE AND WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS SUCH BY ALL. FAHMY REMARKED THAT THIS TYPE OF "VISIBILITY" EGYPT CAN DO WITHOUT. IT DOES NOT WANT ANOTHER NIXON-TYPE VISIT, WHICH HE CALLED ALL FACADE AND NO SUBSTANCE.

7. WE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AFTER MY RETURN FROM WASHINGTON.
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